

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A refrigerator door assembly, comprising:

a sliding door configured to be slid open and closed;

a handle provided on a side-top edge surface of the door; and

a plurality of handle holders each having an end fixed to the door and another end attached to the handle, wherein the end fixed to the door comprises:

a handle holder member extended to the handle; and

a supporting member protruded ~~downwards~~ in a first direction on a lower surface of the handle holder member and receivable within a groove provided in the door, preventing damage from occurring on the handle holder,

wherein the supporting member is disposed between the handle and a securing mechanism configured to secure a corresponding handle holder to the side of the door so as to absorb a force applied to the handle in a second direction opposite to the first direction and reinforce a strength of the handle holder when the sliding door is slid open and closed, and

wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the handle holder such that the supporting member and the handle holder are a single unitary piece.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The door assembly according to claim 1, wherein the supporting member is located on a contacting surface between the handle holder and the door.

4. (Original) The door assembly according to claim 1, wherein a width of the supporting member is smaller than that of the handle holder.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) The door assembly according to claim 1, wherein a groove for inserting the supporting member is formed on the door.

7. (Original) The door assembly according to claim 6, wherein a depth of the groove is the same as a thickness of the supporting member.

8. (Original) The door assembly according to claim 1, wherein the handle holder is fixed to the door by a fixing part penetrating the handle holder.

9. (Original) The door assembly according to claim 8, wherein the fixing part is a screw.

10. (Previously Presented) The door assembly according to claim 9, wherein the securing mechanism comprises at least two screws provided to fix the handle holder to the door.

11. (Previously Presented) The door assembly according to claim 10, wherein the supporting member is located at a surrounding region of a hole through which the screws are penetrated.

12. (Previously Presented) The door assembly according to claim 11, wherein the supporting member is located on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The door assembly according to claim 1, wherein the handle holder is located on each side of the handle.

16. (Currently Amended) A handle assembly for a refrigerator door, comprising:
a handle; and
a plurality of handle holders each having an end fixed to a door and another end attached to the handle, wherein the end fixed to the door comprises:

a handle holder member extended to the handle; and

a supporting member protruded ~~downwards~~ in a first direction at a lower surface of each handle holder member and receivable within a groove provided in the door, wherein the supporting member is disposed between the handle and a securing mechanism configured to secure a corresponding handle holder to the side of the door so as to absorb a force applied to the handle in a second direction opposite to the first direction and reinforce a strength of the handle holder when the door is slid open and closed, and

wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the handle holder such that the supporting member and the handle holder are a single unitary piece.

17-19. (Canceled).